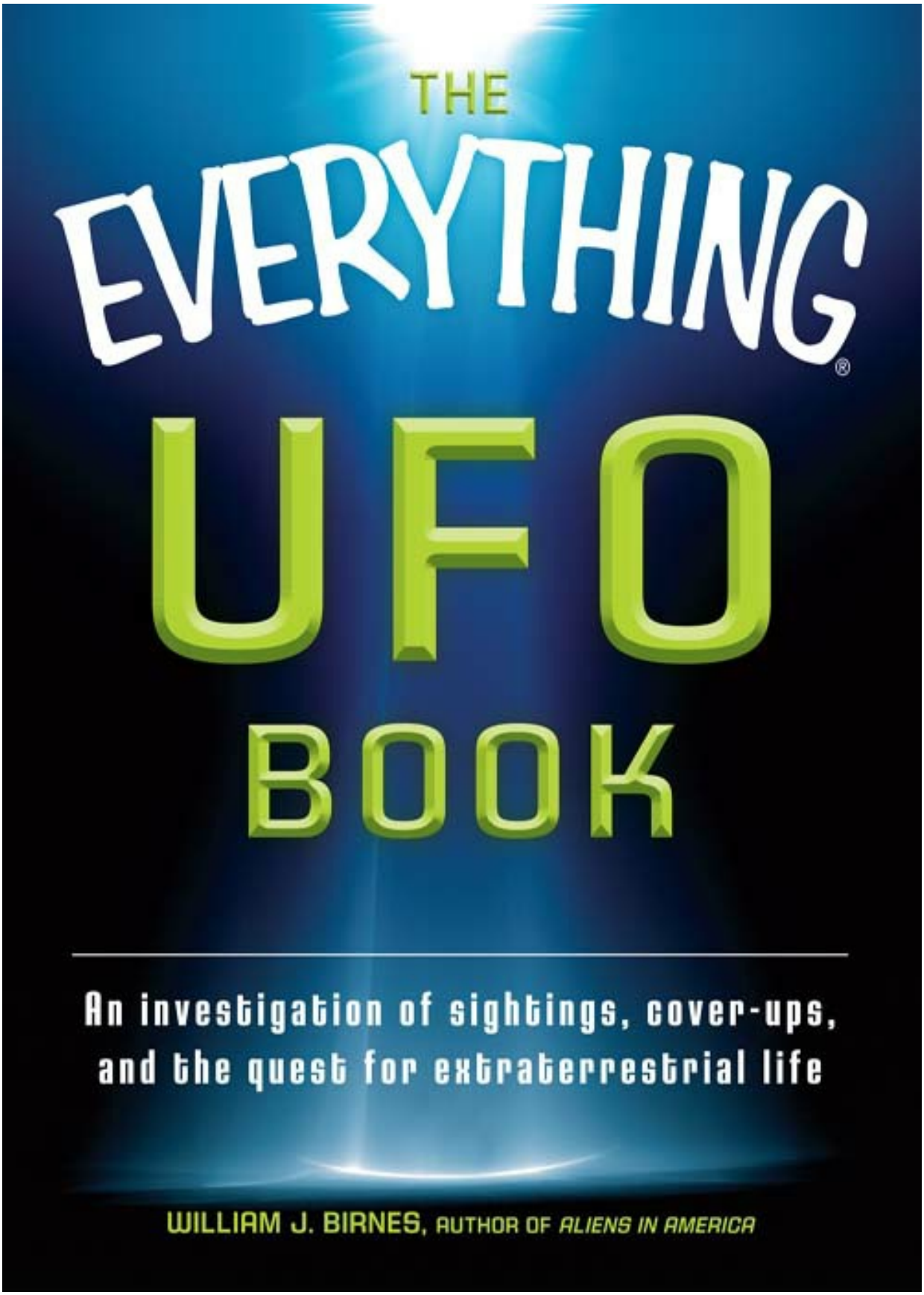
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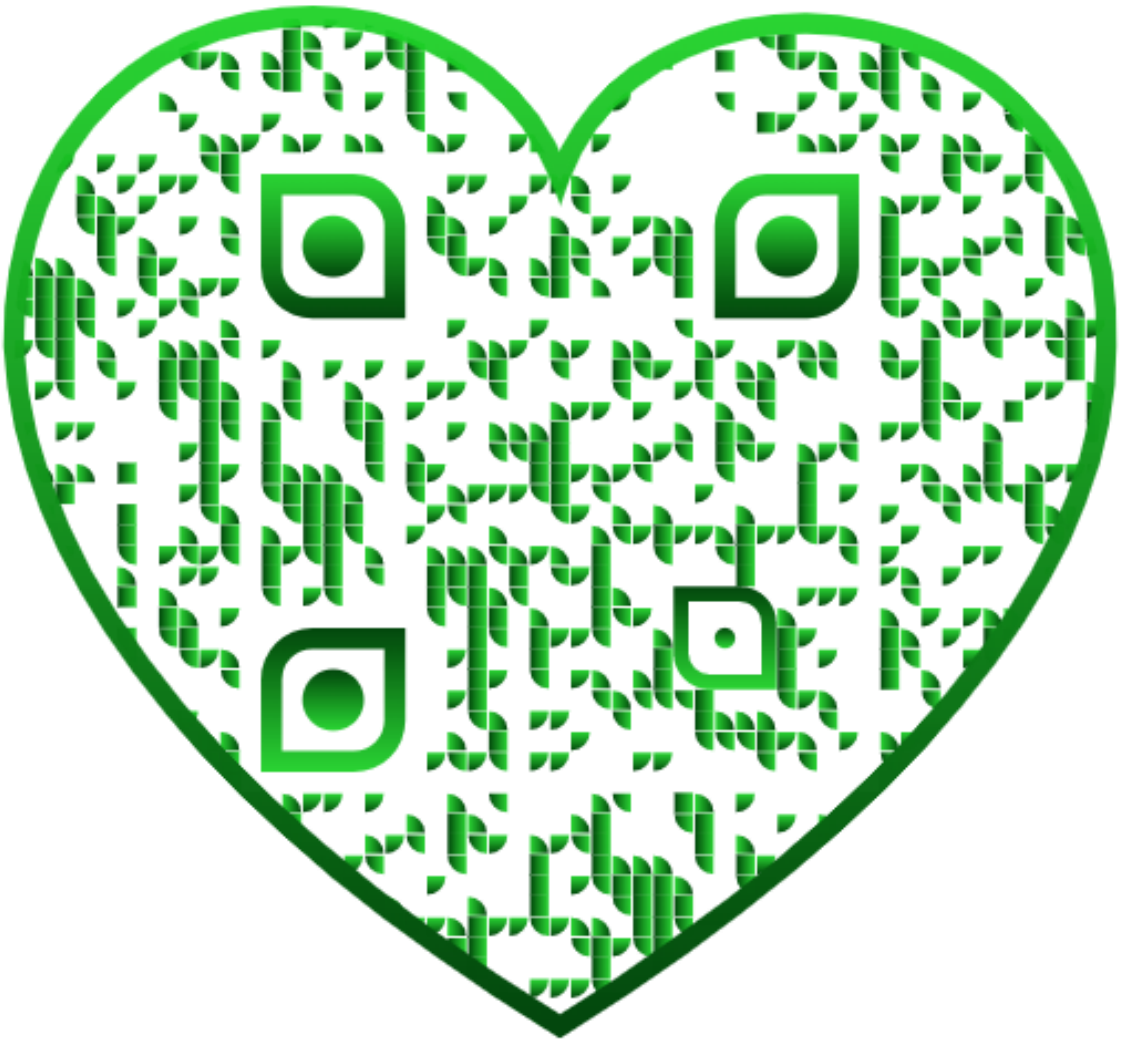

THE EVERYTHING® UFO BOOK

An investigation of sightings, cover-ups,
and the quest for extraterrestrial life

William J. Birnes, author of *Aliens in America*

adamsmedia
Avon, Massachusetts

This book is dedicated to my wife, Nancy Hayfield, the editor of UFO Magazine, *whose research skills and editorial expertise makes all of my work possible. I also dedicate this book to my grandchildren, Casey, Reese, and Marcus, in the hopes that they will someday learn the hidden truth about UFOs.*

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The Top 10 Things You Should Know about UFOs

1. A UFO is not necessarily a flying saucer. It is a flying object you can't identify.
2. A flying saucer is not a UFO. Calling the two interchangeably is a misnomer because a flying saucer is something you can identify.
3. Ninety-five percent of all UFOs turn out to have conventional explanations. Some UFO sightings are simply optical tricks played by atmospheric conditions.
4. The government and the military have never stopped investigating UFO sightings. Even to this day, serious UFO sightings are investigated and logged.
5. UFO sightings are not just a recent phenomenon. They have been going on, and have been captured in art, for over 10,000 years.
6. UFO sightings take place around the world. From airports in China to elementary schools in Zimbabwe, witnesses have not only observed and photographed UFOs but interacted with strange otherworldly visitors.
7. UFO sightings are actually quite common. Most people either dismiss what they're seeing or don't realize that they're witnessing a UFO.
8. Most UFO sightings are simply sightings of strange lights in the sky.

Even a starlike object that seems to move across your field of vision might be a UFO.

9. There are plenty of UFO hot spots. You can spot your own UFO by traveling to places like Mount Shasta, California, or the desert alongside Area 51 in Nevada.

10. UFO incidents have played a major role in American history. Indeed, part of the rationale for the 1947 National Security Act was the UFO incident at Roswell, New Mexico.

Introduction

MOST PEOPLE HAVE A strange reaction when they're told that someone is reading up on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) or even investigating the phenomenon. This is something you should know about if you announce to your friends that you're studying the subject or even taking it seriously. Laughter notwithstanding, however, what you'll find when you begin to review the evidence is astonishing. You'll find that the number of personal experiences with UFOs that people are willing to share is much higher than you'd think. Stories of contact, of being influenced by messages received from UFOs, or the level of government documentation provide evidence that something is out there—and it's not just a bunch of delusional reactions.

There are some basic assumptions you can make about UFOs even before you start to investigate your first case. You can assume that UFOs are real, that UFOs are not real, or that you simply don't know but want to see which way the evidence leads you. This third assumption is what 95 percent of what real UFO investigators make. They simply don't know the absolute truth, but are willing to go where the evidence leads them. This is very different either from true believers, who think that every light in the sky is a message from ET, or from debunkers, who argue that unless they see an ET firsthand there are no such things as UFOs. UFO hunters are natural skeptics who look for the evidence. And if you want to start down this path, it's all about the evidence, some of which is very startling, indeed.

Are UFO investigators and researchers an odd bunch wearing tin hats and

waiting for aliens to land? Maybe they're government investigators, like the "men in black" from the motion picture. Or maybe they're scientists locked in a high-tech laboratory full of bubbling test tubes and electronic equipment that can track incoming signals from space. In fact, even though all three of these are marginally correct, most UFO researchers are just like your neighbors and possibly your family members: everyday people who get up, go to work, come home to watch their kids' baseball games, and hang out on weekends. Most UFO investigators have regular jobs, but do their homework on the Internet or follow news of UFO sightings in the newspapers. They contact witnesses, fill out sighting reports, compare those sighting reports with other reports from different areas, and catalog them for future reference.

There certainly are government types who investigate UFO sightings officially, scientists who search for radio signals from distant parts of the galaxy, and people who might come off as strange because they believe that either extraterrestrials or government units are following their every move. UFO research is a big tent, and there are many different types of people in it. For most of us, however, life goes on as usual, except that we keep our eyes and ears open.

The field of UFO research comprises not only the hard physical sciences like chemistry, physics, astronomy, biology, and electronics, but the social sciences as well. Researchers search the heavens, work out formulas to account for a multidimensional universe or advanced antimatter propulsion, or look for exotic forms of life in remote places on Earth or in meteorites that fell to Earth millions of years ago. Equally important is research in psychology as it pertains to memory loss, the impact of seeing strange craft or beings, the medical issues associated with sleep paralysis or hallucinatory experiences, and the sociology of mass reactions to UFO sightings such as the ones over Phoenix in 1997.

Then there is the important and highly technical field of photo analysis, including analog and digital, still and video. Since the 1950s, so many possible UFOs have been caught on film. Photo analysts have had sixty years of work dissecting the various components of images to determine whether a photo is a hoax; is something as conventional as a cloud, a seagull, or a plane; or is something completely without explanation.

The UFO field is also the study of history, government documents, and the science of journalism as it pertains to the ongoing reporting of events the government or military would probably like to keep secret. History is an important area of UFO research because so much of the history of the United States, especially since 1945, has to do with how government policy tried to amalgamate the possibility of our being visited by life forms from another world.

All of these fields, including spiritualism and mediumship as well, comprise the UFO field of research and represent a rich tapestry of interdisciplinary investigation into an aspect of human experience that can be rewarding and fulfilling—even if people give you odd looks when you try to explain what you're doing.

Ask yourself: Have you ever seen lights in the sky that you couldn't explain? Have you ever heard stories from friends or family members about seeing craft in the sky, either in daylight or at night, that they simply couldn't identify? Not planes, not helicopters, not birds, not falling stars, not anything that made sense? These are not tales of strange creatures turning up in bedrooms or crawling through the windows in the middle of the night, just stories of craft of all different shapes that appear out of nowhere. They hover, flash different-colored lights, and then disappear over the horizon. These, at least to the people observing them in wonderment, are UFOs.

Let this book be your guide for UFO history and your own research.

Happy hunting.

CHAPTER 1

Flying Saucers and UFOs

What is a flying saucer? Simply stated, a flying saucer was the name a newspaper editor gave to the way a strange crescent-shaped craft, sighted by test pilot Kenneth Arnold on June 24, 1947, skipped through the air—just like a saucer skipping over the water. “Flying saucer” didn’t mean spacecraft or hostile extraterrestrial craft, but the media liked the concept and ran (or flew) with it. However, there are legitimate distinctions between UFOs—an object one can’t identify—and a flying saucer, just as there are distinctions between kinds of unidentified craft and even craft you might call flying saucers. For the beginner in UFO hunting, knowing these differences and what different witnesses have described is an important first step.

Historical Definitions

The concept of flying craft with otherworldly origins goes back millennia. In the Bible, for example, the prophet Ezekiel saw a wheel, turning, with flames coming out of it. To him it was not a UFO but a

flying wheel.

The Indian Vedic text talks about vertical cylindrical craft flown by the Vimana, ancient aliens who fought with each other from their flying craft. The descriptions of these craft were so precise and the descriptions of the propulsion systems so meticulous that the Nazis sought to reinvent them as weapons.

Native Americans talk of flying shields navigated by the Star People, who came to Earth and established human civilization. In times of trouble, the Star People moved entire tribes to new lands so they would survive.

During the Middle Ages, narratives of strange flying craft described them sometimes as flaming shields, spears, or moons that created fear and havoc among townspeople.

According to the Mutual UFO Network, over 95 percent of all UFO sightings turn out to be conventional craft, optical illusions, or downright hoaxes. It’s the remaining 5 percent that they investigate.

In modern times, there is much talk about flying giant triangles, flying cylinders, flying crescents, flying orbs, and flying rods, all of which fit into the category of UFOs because most people can’t identify the craft—they can only describe the shape.

Why Most People See UFOs and Not Flying Saucers

The majority of sightings are simply lights in the sky. Rarely do people see structured objects clearly. There are those fortunate enough to catch the structure of an object because of the angle of light or as a result of their location—as many people did in a major sighting in 1997 called the Phoenix Lights incident—but usually it's just a light that seems unconventional in the way it moves or in the way it is self-illuminating. As a result, most witnesses can't make a specific judgment about the object they've seen. They usually say it was something that didn't look conventional and, therefore, was unidentifiable. This, then, became the origin of the term *UFO*. It is an object that is flying that witnesses cannot positively identify as something they recognize.

It's important to stress the unidentifiable nature of the object, because when people say to a friend that they've seen a UFO, the almost immediate thought is that they've seen a spacecraft. This is not necessarily true. How can you tell a spacecraft from an interdimensional craft, or even a time ship? How do you know what a time ship looks like? Does it have a big rear spinning wheel like the time machine from the 1962 George Pal film *The Time Machine*? The truth is that no one probably can identify a time ship, an interdimensional craft, or even a craft from another planet. Therefore, what most people see are UFOs, structured or unstructured, lights or dots in the sky, because these are objects that are unconventional and there is no criteria with which to categorize them other than to say they're unidentified.

Semantic creep occurs when a term or a word expands its meaning to something else. UFO, which was originally a neutral term denoting a flying object that could not be identified, has come to mean an extraterrestrial craft. The term has crept semantically from neutral to colorful.

However, once you say “UFO,” a whole boxcar of meaning slides along the track because over the course of sixty years of sightings, flaps, and incidents, UFO has come to mean extraterrestrial craft. That being the case, the careful scientific community, not wanting to be thought of as spaceman crazy, came up with a new term, “UAP,” which stands for Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. Does that sound like six of one, half-dozen of another? Of course it does, on the surface. However, there is a major difference. Because the connotation of UFO means “flying saucer” and the connotation of UAP is probably unknown, the scientific community can use UAP and escape the true believer label while sounding more nuts-and-bolts within a scientific context. It’s all a matter of how one wants to be perceived.

Why It’s Called a Flying Saucer

On June 24, 1947, a pilot named Kenneth Arnold was searching for a missing plane over Mount Rainier in Washington State. While searching for the plane, Arnold saw nine silvery objects flying in formation through his cockpit window. At first he thought they were birds, but they seemed metallic and didn’t fly like birds. The more he observed

them, the more he saw they were unconventional, wingless craft. They were shaped like crescents or soft-edged triangles. To his eyes, they seemed to skip through the air, appearing in one spot, then winking out and appearing in another spot as if they were bobbing in and out of reality. Arnold thought they were experimental aircraft from the U.S. Army Air Force.

He called in his sighting to the local airfield. When he arrived, people were already there to question him about what he saw. In describing the motion of the strange craft to a local reporter, Arnold said that they moved through the air just like a saucer that was skipping across the surface of water. And the newspaper reporter coined the phrase, “flying saucers.” The name stuck, and soon every sighting of a strange craft was called a flying saucer.

Sizes and Shapes of UFOs

UFOs appear to witnesses in all sizes and shapes, which makes the term *flying saucer*, referring to any type of extraterrestrial ship, a misnomer. For example, the craft that Kenneth Arnold referred to in 1947 as “skipping through the air like a saucer skips over water” weren’t saucer-shaped at all. They were soft crescents. Witnesses said this was the same type of craft that crashed at Roswell in July 1947.

Disks

The traditional shape associated with flying saucers, especially in the 1950s, are just that—disks. Captured in photographs by Paul Trent of McMinnville, Oregon, and Rex Heflin of Santa Ana, California, these craft look like flying hubcaps or wheels and are depicted in classic

motion pictures, including *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *This Island Earth*.

The Wedding Cake

Photos taken by Ed Walters in Gulf Breeze, Florida, show a multilayered circular craft, similar to the huge mother ship depicted in the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* or somewhat resembling a wedding cake.

Walters became famous in the late 1980s for his stories of having seen, and photographed, a flying saucer. While debunkers and experts argued back and forth, Walters eventually sold his house, at that point a mecca for UFO enthusiasts, and moved away. Shortly after the new owners moved in, a repairman showed up saying he was sent to check one of the vents or ducts under the roof. Soon after he left, a reporter showed up, saying he had come to check on a story that Ed Walters, the prior owner, had a model of a UFO in the house. The new owners let him in, and, lo and behold, he went right to the spot where the repairman had been and found a model of a UFO that supposedly matched the photos Walters had taken. One theory about this amazing discovery was that some group—a government agency, perhaps—had sent the fake repairman to plant the model, only to be discovered by a fake reporter. By planting the model and then "discovering" the model, whoever this group was created a hoax to discredit Walters. This is an object lesson in how debunkers can create the illusion of hoaxes by planting evidence.

Giant Triangles

Marked by lights at each of the points and a camouflaged rigid structure holding the lights in place, these craft have been seen all over

the world. They are able to hover, float slowly through the air at low altitudes, and fly off at incredible speeds. In Phoenix, Arizona, in March 1997, even the then-governor Fife Symington reported having seen one at close range from his own backyard. Thousands of other Phoenix residents saw it as well, describing it as the size of three football fields, moving slowly through Paradise Valley, and having a shimmering, almost satin-like surface as it wafted by. Some who saw it said that it was completely silent. Others said they heard a soft hum as it flew overhead.

The same triangle-shaped craft seen in Phoenix has been seen over England, Belgium, and California, and it was a prominent sight over the Hudson Valley area of New York in the early 1980s, starting in 1981.

Flying Cylinders or Cigar-Shaped UFOs

Craft that resemble cigars or long cylinders are referred to as cigar-shaped craft. They are rounded at both ends and are sometimes called transport vessels because flying orbs can detach and reattach to them. They have been sighted over Santa Monica Bay in California and as far away as Kyrgyzstan along the ancient silk-trading route between Russia and China. There, a cigar-shaped craft was said to have crashed in a desolate mountain valley. A research group that reached the crash site reported that all of their electrical equipment had failed and their watches stopped. It was as if time was standing still in that area. They

were forced to leave as they became sick. Shortly thereafter, a Soviet retrieval team reached the spot and lifted the craft with a huge sky crane. When another research team returned years later, the site had been scrubbed.

Arrowheads or Flying Boomerangs

The UFOs over Phoenix in 1997 were also described as giant boomerangs or arrowheads. The artist conceptions of the boomerang shape may have originated because of the cloaking-type device some observers saw on the Phoenix flying triangle. One witness, for example, said that she and her friends were observing the triangle floating over their veranda and could see hazy starlight through the structured surface. The satin-like finish didn't obscure the night, but it made the starlight seem wavy. This prompted some experts to suggest that perhaps the triangles were using a kind of camouflaging mechanism to project light onto the ground so witnesses would not be able to see the object if the orbs attached to its tips weren't illuminated. Thus, some witnesses saw a boomerang and others saw either a triangle or an arrowhead, and it all might have been the same object.

Orbs

Perhaps one of the most common close encounter sightings is the glowing orb, a round self-illuminating object that seems to float, hover, flit away, and even interact with human observers. There is debate over whether the orb, also called an "orange ball of light" or "obol," is either a life form itself or a vehicle of sorts. If it is a life form, then the orb would constitute a type of otherworldly creature or even an energy projection of an entity. If it is a craft, then some experts suggest that it is

a form of a probe guided by an intelligent operator who can see and interact via the orb.

In parts of the United States, orbs have been reportedly interacting with human beings, following them and even hanging directly in front of people, instilling both awe and fear. In Utah at the Skinwalker Ranch, orbs are said to appear from within invisible portals to scout the area and then disappear.

Orbs have been spotted all over the world as far back as the mid-1940s during World War II when they were referred to by Allied pilots as “foo fighters.” “Foo” was an English attempt to translate *feu*, French for “fire.” The pilots believed these were fireballs that were secret German weapons. The Germans believed these were secret British weapons. However, foo fighter orbs appeared over the South Pacific as well. One of them was hit with machine gun fire by a B-29 bomber and split into different pieces. Skeptics believed that the foo fighters weren’t unconventional or otherworldly after all but simply ball lightning. The problem with this explanation, though, is that the foo fighter orbs seemed to be moving intelligently, tracking the aircraft from both sides during Allied bombing runs over Germany. Ball lightning doesn’t hover, doesn’t move as if guided by something, and doesn’t tend to linger in the air. These foo fighters actively maneuvered around Allied and German aircraft, according to the American pilots who reported on their presence.

Pinpoints of Light

Another common sighting that witnesses suggest are UFOs are bright lights in the heavens that may have no definable shape because they’re so high. These lights, which could be mistaken for the North Star, the

planet Mercury, or falling meteors (shooting stars), can dart around the heavens, make sharp turns in ways that conventional aircraft can't, stop and hover, and shoot off again in a different direction. Perhaps the most vivid description of these points of light come from constables in the United Kingdom who witnessed them at Stonehenge during a neo-Druidic celebration at the summer solstice.

While celebrants were dancing around the structure, police protecting the monument from any damage noticed a light in the heavens that seemed to be hanging in one place. Then, as they watched it, it began making sharp turns and traversed the entire Salisbury Plain area in straight lines and ninety-degree angles as if it were making a grid search. The police said it was one of the most astounding sights they had ever seen.

USOs

USOs are unidentified submerged objects, essentially underwater UFOs. They have been spotted as far back as Christopher Columbus's voyage to the New World in 1492. A watch officer on the deck of the *Santa Maria*, the flagship of Columbus's tiny fleet, reported to Columbus that he saw a brightly lit object underwater. Columbus was said to have observed the object himself as it traveled near the *Santa Maria* and then flew out of the water. The sighting of this craft was entered into the log of the *Santa Maria* and has become the first sighting of a submerged UFO in the history of the Western world.

USOs have been spotted by fishermen and sailors in the Gulf of Mexico, off Japan's Dragon Sea, in Santa Monica Bay near Redondo Beach, off Santa Catalina Island, and in the North Sea by crew members on the aircraft carrier USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* during NATO's

Operation Mainbrace in 1952.

It has been suggested by experts that the different shapes and sizes of UFOs represent different extraterrestrial species. Or the same species of extraterrestrials may be using different craft for different purposes.

Sizes of UFOs

UFOs range in size from small four- or five-foot orbs to giant mother ship–type craft, whether triangular or circular, hundreds of yards across. Sizes of the flying disk shapes have ranged from twenty feet to fifty feet or more, depending on how the film still or video footage is analyzed. The Phoenix triangles were considered to be so large that for those who could only see the shimmering surface and no starlight coming through, the objects stretched over both hillsides in Paradise Valley. Other flying triangles sighted near Parrump, Nevada, were so large they simply blotted out the sky.

UFOs as Shape Shifters

Perhaps as part of a defense mechanism or the ability to generate imagery to confuse witnesses, some UFOs have been reported to have changed shape. Orbs, for example, can detach themselves from larger craft, disks, or triangles and fly independently. One triangular craft that was reported to have landed in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, England, in December 1980, outside of RAF Bentwaters, led a U.S. Air Force

security detail through the forest and into a clearing near a farmhouse where the object split into five separate lights and took off.

Official Documentary Proof of Both UFOs and Flying Saucers

To explain the complete documentary evidence substantiating government awareness of the existence of UFOs would take at least two to three large volumes of text. Suffice to say that from the first documented crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, later called a weather balloon and even later a Project Mogul balloon by the army air force and the U.S. Air Force, both military and civilian investigators have officially recognized UFOs in various documents.

As recently as 2010 and early 2011, the British government has released thousands of official documents on UFOs that have been investigated in the United Kingdom, documents that are all available on the Internet. You can see these files in pdf format here: http://ufos.nationalarchives.gov.uk. There are no real smoking guns—most of the files deal with people who report seeing lights in the sky or hearing strange noises that spooked a dog or a cat.

Sightings at Home

While the United States has been less than forthcoming about its own release of official documentary information, in 1947, General Nathan

Twining of the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field (later Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) wrote memos about the importance of investigating the nature of the crash at Roswell. In 1952, briefing documents for the incoming president Dwight D. Eisenhower made official reference to the crash at Roswell six years earlier and described the official government investigation into the nature of the object (the craft) and the craft's pilots. These are incredible documents that describe the steps the government took to evaluate the craft and the incident, and assess the potential threat to U.S. security.

In 1952, the air force and the U.S. intelligence agencies investigated not only the UFO invasion of the skies over Washington, D.C., and Chesapeake Bay but the reported loss of American pilots chasing those UFOs. Many of these official references can be found in Captain Edward Ruppelt's 1956 book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (now being reprinted). In this guide he makes reference to memos, cables, and wire reports from military sources about the appearance of these objects and their interaction with U.S. air defenses.

A similar amount of official document traffic was generated in 1965 when UFOs approached the protected airspace around Edwards Air Force Base, an incident considered so threatening that a fighter was launched to observe and intercept while other interceptors were readied to protect the air base. Two years later, UFOs were reported to have appeared over Malmstrom Air Force Base, an ICBM facility, and shut down the missile launch capabilities. Captain Robert Salas, one of the missile launch control officers at that time at Malmstrom, was an on-the-ground witness to the missile shutdown.

Sightings Abroad

At RAF Bentwaters in 1980 and again at RAF Cosford in 1995, the appearances of UFOs in highly secure airspaces generated cable traffic between the UK Ministry of Defence and the U.S. Department of Defense, each side asking the other if the craft in question was the other's. At RAF Bentwaters, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations investigated the incident within days, and agents and interrogators from this office instructed the air force witnesses to lie about what they saw to their superiors. At least one official report on the incident, written by the deputy base commander Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, made it all the way up the chain of command to the general staff, where it lingers to this very day.

One of the most stunning confirmations of the interest—or urgency—that the United States government has expressed concerning UFOs and their existence occurred in 1976 when Parviz Jafari, an Iranian fighter pilot, encountered a triangular-shaped UFO over the Tehran airport on a mission to intercept it. The UFO disabled the air-to-air missile weapons system on his F-4 Phantom jet as he tried to get a radar lock to fire at it and then chased him as he tried to evade it. As he flew back to base, the UFO made almost instant jumps from side to side around his airplane, finally breaking off the encounter and landing in the desert. When Major Jafari landed, USAF intelligence officers as well as plainclothes investigators met him and interrogated him about the incident. That report of his interrogation and the UFO encounter was handed to President Gerald Ford, official documents show.

Official information about UFOs has reached all the way to the White House and at least five presidents have either seen UFOs with their own eyes or have been briefed on the existence of UFOs. Accordingly, UFOs have been the subject of much official documentation inside the United

States and United Kingdom, and probably other governments as well.

Misunderstandings and Misperceptions about UFOs

If you listen the next time a skeptic or debunker characterizes a UFO sighting, you'll hear a snicker factor—a joking about where the UFO came from and what it might be. Immediately you'll hear the witnesses derided as having seen something from Mars or another planet. Of course, that's a major misconception about UFOs, because only a small segment of the UFO community either believes or is willing to state where or when these things come from. For the most part, UFO witnesses either suggest that it is only a military test aircraft or something they can't explain. But the misconception is that if anyone sees a UFO, that person is seeing a craft from another planet here to eat us or take us hostage. It's a common misconception.

A common misunderstanding is that the term *UFO* means alien spaceship. It means simply what it says—that the witness was unable to identify it.

CHAPTER 2

A Brief History of UFOs

If you think that UFOs are exclusively a twentieth-century phenomenon, think again. UFOs have been around since the beginning of human civilization, and possibly even before. Some believe that human civilization was seeded on Earth by extraterrestrials and that stories of the creation are simply retellings to keep humans in the dark as to their origins. Perhaps, these people say, the reason there is a UFO cover-up is that the truth about UFOs and the arrival of human beings on Earth would be too devastating to accept.

Ancient Aliens

In cultures as diverse as those of ancient Sumer, Native American tribes, Egypt, the Maya and the Incas, and the ancient Hindus, there are vivid stories of intervention in human affairs by superbeings. Called everything from the Annunaki, the Star People, and the Vimana, these superbeings who came from the heavens not only managed the affairs of human cultures, required them to pay homage and obedience, and had a

hand in the creation of humans, but also flew through the heavens on strange craft. In the Native American legends, these craft were called shields; in the ancient Indian Vedic texts, these craft were powered by a liquid metal called red mercury.

Physical records exist of what scholars like the late Zecharia Sitchin and Erich Von Daniken have called “ancient alien intervention.” They exist in the form of cuneiform symbols, hieroglyphics, pictographs carved into rocks, actual ruins of ancient municipal technologies like water supply systems, and textual descriptions of appearances of aliens. Physical records also exist in the form of monuments, in ancient stone megaliths in which the technology of the cultures and societies in question could not have transported, joined, or aligned such giant stones. Does this mean that there was some form of supernatural intervention or help?

Some of the earliest pictographs from civilizations all across the world, from Egypt to Central America, contain images of crafts that appear very much like modern conventional aircraft. These pictographs are so realistic that some people think that either someone has traveled back in time or civilization was reseeded by aliens very similar to human beings today.

Ancient astronomical records point to some form of outside knowledge as well. For example, how could the ancient Maya have known about the existence of a black hole at the center of the Milky

Way galaxy when it wasn't discovered until late in the last century? Did the Maya have telescopes? Were they able to determine the position of the solar system in the Milky Way to position their calendars? Did they even have the concept of planets in relation to the sun, and, if so, how could they have plotted a course for Planet X, which they called Niburu, supposedly due to orbit past Earth in 2012, causing untold destruction?

How do you account for physical records that point to advanced knowledge and technologies far beyond the tool-making and construction capabilities of ancient cultures? These records, across many different cultures, point to some form of outside intervention and help.

UFOs in the Bible and Apocryphal Texts

According to some members of the UFO community, who have claimed to be in the loop of official government investigations into the UFO phenomenon, the Old Testament itself is a record of extraterrestrial intervention. Many ufologists have said that the very nature of otherworldly or extraworldly intervention speaks directly to an ET presence on Earth.

It's not an either/or situation, that you either believe in the Bible or you believe in UFOs. Many of the stories that come from the Bible about human history could well have gotten entangled with very real UFO sightings and encounters. Most UFO researchers are as religious as the average person. They simply believe that there are

some encounters with anomalous objects that can’t be explained conventionally.

Genesis

The story of Genesis is the story of the creation of humanity by an extraterrestrial or otherworldly force. Human beings were created, manufactured out of native elements on Earth—“100 pounds of clay” for the creation of Adam.

In Genesis, human beings are created, and their first act of disobedience involves listening to the advice of a native reptilian being that walks upright and hangs out in the trees. The next act involves the mating of the children of Adam and Eve with the children of the Nephilim, translated loosely as “giants” but actually meaning “those who came down from the heavens.” Were the Nephilim another extraterrestrial species who populated Earth before the Annunaki fabricated human beings? Was this interbreeding so prohibitive to the function of humans that a flood had to be generated to wipe out the Nephilim and their hybrid human offspring? If so, does the appearance of the Nephilim in later portions of the Bible, including King Og and the giant Goliath, mean that the attempt to wipe out the Nephilim and their hybrid offspring was unsuccessful? This is just one of the many mysteries and discrepancies of the Bible that points to another source of the story of creation.

Where does the name *Adam* come from?

The name *Adam* means “man,” coming all the way from Proto-Indo-European. In Hebrew, the concept of man or “human” means “derived from dirt” or “made from dirt.” This is why *humus*, meaning “soil,” is from the same root as “human.” Today, such names as Adams, Adamson, Andrews, and Anders all have their roots in the name *Adam*. In the movie *The Matrix*, Keanu Reeves’s character, “Neo,” literally means “new,” representing the “new man.”

Biblical historians know that the modern Bible is a redacted version of many ancient texts, a version that was assembled by ancient editors trying to reconcile the different stories of creation with one another. Books or texts that were left out of the Bible are sometimes called *apocrypha* or apocryphal texts. One of the major apocryphal books that was left out of the Bible, as it was handed down through generations, is called the book of Enoch.

The Book of Enoch

Quoted by Saint Jude in the New Testament (Jude 1:14–15), the book of Enoch is attributed to the great-grandfather of Noah and the seventh son of Adam. This book, while not appearing in the New Testament today, was considered a part of the Gospel by the early church fathers. Enoch might be called the first contactee who talks about the Nephilim, those who fell from the heavens, and the first contactee to take journeys to other worlds. Blasphemous though it may be, the book of Enoch, revered by many ancient scholars before being excised by later church councils, might well be the first first-person narrative of UFO contact ever compiled.

Joseph's Abduction

The Lost Books of the Bible is a collection of ancient works that never made it into the formal Bible because they were excised by the early Church fathers. In one of these books, there is a remarkable passage about Joseph before his wife, Mary, gave birth to Jesus. In his own words, Joseph describes what can only be termed a vision of being levitated. Joseph says he rises through the air where he sees birds frozen in midflight and looks down at people on the ground. He says he sees a table spread with food with "working people" sitting around it. But, he says that their hands are laid upon the table and they're not moving, frozen in position. Those people who were putting food in their mouths were also motionless, not chewing any food. And all the people were looking skyward. All the animals around them were standing stock-still. Joseph sees a bright, magnificent light and receives a prophecy of the salvation of Israel.

This would seem like a typical biblical prophecy foretelling the coming of grace, except for some of the details: Joseph's levitation, the frozen people, birds still in the air, and the sheep standing stock-still. All of these bespeak a version of an alien encounter with those who are not part of the encounter being frozen in position. This is also similar to what happens in many alien encounter and abduction episodes.

Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

One of the most vivid biblical stories of a UFO encounter is the story of the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel, who sees a wheel turning in the sky amidst flame and smoke. Out of the wheel emerges a strange four-sided being who instructs him, calling him the "Son of Man," to warn the king to mend his ways in order to avoid destruction. Is Ezekiel a contactee who has seen a flying saucer and the ET who emerges from it?

UFOs in Roman Times

One of the earliest sightings of UFOs came during the Second Punic Wars when Hannibal was making war on Rome in 218 B.C.E. The historian Livy, documenting the Punic Wars, wrote "a spectacle of ships was observed gleaming in the sky." Were these objects large enough to resemble ships? The following year, witnesses said they saw a group of bright orb-like lights in the sky. And two years later Livy again reported that witnesses saw a large "stone" flying in the air. Livy pointedly said the object was flying and not a stone hurled from a catapult.

During the reign of Emperor Theodosius in 393 C.E., burning "flying round shields" appeared over Rome. Other witnesses saw burning globes. Today they are called orbs.

UFOs in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

One of the great historical documents of the early Middle Ages is the Anglo-Saxon *Chronicle*, a history of England from the conquest of Roman Britain to the arrival of William the Conqueror. Written by various scribes in different monasteries and abbeys, primarily in the time of West Saxon's King Alfred, these chronicles were organized by year. In 793, one chronicler notes that fiery dragons appeared in the sky, and the town's inhabitants who witnessed the event were so frightened they fled inside a church.

Christopher Columbus might have seen a UFO. From the captain's log on the *Santa Maria*: "Saturday, 15 September, 1492. And on this night, at the beginning of it, they saw fall from the sky a marvelous branch of fire into the sea at a distance of four to five leagues from them." It was the first recorded sighting of a UFO in the New World.

In 900, another chronicler writes that reddish flying shields appeared in the skies over Saxon England near a castle, causing residents to seek shelter inside the palace walls. The archbishop of Lyon also recorded the appearance of what he called "sailors," who emerged from a flying ship and were stoned by residents of a village. But the stones caused them no harm, and they chased the residents inside a church. One has to ask whether these chronicled sightings were fantasies, rumors, or real events

expressed in the language and outlook of the day. In some respects, they differ very little from what might be called an actual historical account of Ezekiel's sighting. Similarly, in 1290, in the Yorkshire *Chronicles*, there is a description of a flying disk—a flat, round, silvery object that flew over an abbey and caused great consternation and terror among the clerics who lived there.

Although one can easily walk through history, citing reports in various chronicles of the appearances of UFOs, none is more intriguing than two sixteenth-century UFO battles in the skies over Europe, the first of which was in Nuremberg in April 1561.

Under the rules of evidence, particularly in federal court, there is something called "judicial notice," which means that if there is an independent, usually unimpeachable, source, such as an almanac recording a sunrise or the phase of the moon, a court will admit that as evidence. If you use judicial notice as an argument, then you can say that as far back as 1561, valid evidence was presented for the existence of UFOs in the form of the Nuremberg *Gazette* broadsheet report of a battle between UFOs in the skies over Nuremberg, Germany.

According to the Nuremberg *Gazette*, a lot of men and women saw a very alarming scene where various objects were involved, including balls:

> *…approximately 3 in the length, from time to time, four in a square, much remained insulated, and between these balls, one saw a number of crosses with the color of blood. Then one saw two large pipes, in which small and large pipes, were 3 balls, also four or more. All these elements started to fight one against the other.*

It was a "dreadful apparition," according to the *Gazette*, that filled the sky and was a "frightful spectacle" for all the men and women in the town who witnessed it.

What was it? Two alien cultures fighting with each other as they came into contact over medieval Europe? A religious apparition? A mass hallucination? You can easily dismiss the late Renaissance townspeople as either superstitious, technologically ignorant, or both, but that would be a mistake of prejudgment. Whatever it was, the multiple-witnessed event was described in such detail from different positions that it didn't seem to be a wild hallucination or a mass panic at a strange configuration of clouds. And five years after the event, Hans Glaser created a woodcut that illustrated the event, memorializing it to accompany the news report of the event. It is one of the most striking depictions, both in text and in art, of a violent UFO encounter.

In August 1577, over Basel, Switzerland, another apparent battle between UFOs also took place. This one, also memorialized in a newspaper report, was between fiery dark spheres, some of which turned red when they were hit and either exploded or simply vaporized.

The interesting similarity in these events, only sixteen years apart, is that they both involved what witnesses believed to be airship battles—at a time when there were no airships—using forms of explosives, and

both were memorialized in print. In the late sixteenth century, with the invention of movable type in Europe, print had become the late medieval and early Renaissance version of today's Internet. It was the beginning of newsprint, modern newspapers, and events that might have been suppressed by the church or simply tucked away as strange unrealities found their way into popular circulation.

UFO Representations in Medieval and Renaissance Art

In addition to strange UFO-like images in Egyptian hieroglyphics, Sumerian pictographs, and Mayan ideographs, depictions of unidentified flying craft also appear in some prominent late medieval and Renaissance paintings. For example, in a sixteenth-century fresco from a church in Europe, one can see what can only be described as a space capsule with a needlelike nose cone and a clear windshield streaking across the sky over the heads of an assembled group of people seemingly unaware of the presence of the craft. In another painting from the fifteenth century by Ghirlandaio, you can see the Virgin Mary with a flying disk over her head. In yet another painting of the Virgin, there is a man in the foreground pointing up at an object in the sky, and his dog, standing next to him, is barking at the object.

One can argue, of course, that the UFOs in these paintings are some sort of fantasy on the part of the painters, but that is not in the province of the art of this period. It would make no sense for a flying capsule, one that looks like the old Gemini space capsules, to appear in a medieval or Renaissance painting, because these objects were intellectually beyond the ken of artists six hundred years ago. A painting of an angelic spirit would be just that, not a nuts-and-bolts spacecraft. Therefore, one has to wonder where the artist saw or heard about these objects.

UFOs in Early America

UFO sightings were not confined to Europe. In the American colonies, witnesses including fishermen in Massachusetts and one of New England's most important theologians and authors saw UFOs. Their observations were taken very seriously by historians, and as a result, UFO historians have a treasure trove of information about UFOs in early America.

The Muddy River Sighting

America's first recorded UFO sighting, and possible alien abduction, took place on the Charles River in Boston in 1639. The sighting report was considered so reliable that Massachusetts governor John Winthrop recorded it in his official history of New England. Governor Winthrop wrote:

> *In this year one James Everell, a sober, discreet man, and two others, saw a great light in the night at Muddy River. When it stood still, it flamed up, and was about three yards square; when it ran, it was contracted into the figure of a swine: it ran as swift as an arrow towards Charlton [Charlestown], and so up and down [for] about two or three hours. They were come down in their lighter about a mile, and, when it was over, they found themselves carried quite back against the tide to the place they came from. Divers[e] other credible persons saw the same light, after, about the same place.*

Among the interesting features of this report is Winthrop's mention of the witnesses being carried back up the river to the place where they

started, against the tide, without any memory of their journey. Was this also the first mention of what has come to be known as *missing time*, a period of time in which activity can't be accounted for?

Cotton Mather's UFO Sighting

As recorded in NASA's *Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events*, in November 1668, the New England fire-and-brimstone preacher, the Reverend Cotton Mather—a minister who was rational enough to put the Salem Witch Trials to an end—said that when he was observing the moon through a telescope, he saw a "star-point" of light moving on the surface of the moon.

The citations in NASA's *Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events* are purely anecdotal, at least insofar as the early Colonial sightings are concerned. All you can gather from the report is that Cotton Mather "said" he saw strange lights moving above the lunar surface. What they were, no one knows.

George Washington's ET Vision at Valley Forge

Here's a story that never made it into the official history books but was told to the army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* by the self-described oldest living survivor of the Continental army encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, at the centennial celebration of American independence in Philadelphia. In a moment of utter despair at snowbound Valley Forge, his troops demoralized, hungry, ill-clad and -

shod, and staggering under the deep freeze, General Washington sought refuge in a grove of trees, where he prayed for guidance. In answer to his prayers, he told his staff, he saw an angelic vision who foretold the American victory in the war and the glorious future of the new union. This vision renewed Washington's resolve, which he communicated to his troops and inspired them to weather the winter and renew the resistance to the British in the spring.

Was this vision a figment of Washington's tormented imagination, a hallucination brought on by the overwrought commander-in-chief, who could not bear the suffering of his troops? Or was it a divine message sent to the person whose courage and perseverance were central to the outcome of the war? UFO historians have said that visions such as these, described by writers as far back as biblical times and the times of the ancient Greeks and Romans, are extraterrestrial beings whose presence is understood by the contactees to be spiritual or divine. Whatever the nature of Washington's visitation, his story, told in his own words to the members of his staff, mark a recounting of remarkable contact between America's founding patriarch and a representative of the other world.

UFOs in the Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth century in America began with the report of a UFO sighting communicated by the third president, Thomas Jefferson, of an account by William Dunbar in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dispatched from Natchez on June 30, 1800, the communication read:

> *A phenomenon was seen to pass Baton Rouge on the night of the 5th April 1800, of which the following is the best description I have been able to obtain.*

It was first seen in the South West, and moved so rapidly, passing over the heads of the spectators, as to disappear in the North East in about a quarter of a minute.

It appeared to be of the size of a large house, 70 or 80 feet long and of a form nearly resembling Fig. 5 in Plate IV.b

It appeared to be about 200 yards above the surface of the Earth, wholly luminous, but not emitting sparks; of a colour resembling the sun near the horizon in a cold frosty evening, which may be called a crimson red. When passing right over the heads of the spectators, the light on the surface of the Earth, was little short of the effect of sun-beams, though at the same time, looking another way, the stars were visible, which appears to be a confirmation of the opinion formed of its moderate elevation. In passing, a considerable degree of heat was felt but no electric sensation. Immediately after it disappeared in the Northeast, a violent rushing noise was heard, as if the phenomenon was bearing down the forest before it, and in a few seconds a tremendous crash was heard similar to that of the largest piece of ordnance, causing a very sensible earthquake.

Aliens Versus Cowboys

In another wild story out of the *Nebraska Nugget*, cowboys herding cattle on June 6, 1884, were startled by a loud whirring sound over their heads. They saw a dazzling white light and saw an object that crashed on the other side of an embankment. They made their way to the crash site where they saw “pieces of machinery,” debris from the crash. The

heat at the crash site was so intense it made them back off, but they noticed that the entire area was scorched. However, they located what seemed to be the largest part of the craft, and when one of them looked directly at it, he collapsed from the intensity of the light and, perhaps, the radiation or electric field. The newspaper described the object as a ship of about fifty feet long, twelve feet in diameter, and shaped like a cylinder, hissing and smoking in the grass. It was made of a very light metal. It had crashed in an area that was very remote and far away from any roads. The story gives no resolution to the event, only reporting what the three cowboys saw.

The Texas Airship Mystery

Once reported as the first official UFO crash in America, the Texas Airship Mystery is the story of a purported crash of an unidentified flying object into a water pump windmill tower in Aurora, Texas, in April 1897. According to the *Dallas Morning News* from April 19, 1897, “About 6 o’clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship that had been sailing throughout the country. It was traveling due north, and much nearer the Earth than before.” The ship, a small metal-clad dirigible-like craft powered by propellers, crashed into a windmill and exploded on Judge Proctor’s property. Residents recovered a small burned-beyond-recognition body from the wreckage and buried it in a nearby cemetery. Was the craft a UFO?

UFOs on the Moon

Beginning in Elizabethan England in the sixteenth century and continuing through colonial New England with a sighting by minister

Cotton Mather, strange lights and structures have been observed on the lunar surface. These sightings of lunar anomalies are all documented in a surprising historical report from NASA summarizing 500 years of lunar anomalies. The report, *NASA Technical Report R-277, Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events*, published in 1968, is unclassified and freely available, and it notes the different sightings, reveals how they were reported and by whom, and describes what the observers have seen.

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